
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6544

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, Franklin, Wood, Wojahn and Winsley)

Read first time 02/06/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving long-term care; amending RCW
2 70.129.030; adding a new section to chapter 18.20 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 70.128 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many residents of
7 long-term care facilities and recipients of in-home personal care
8 services are exceptionally vulnerable and their health and well-being
9 are heavily dependent on their caregivers. The legislature further
10 finds that the quality of staff in long-term care facilities is often
11 the key to good care. The need for well-trained staff and well-managed
12 facilities is growing as the state's population ages and the acuity of
13 the health care problems of residents increases. In order to better
14 protect and care for residents, the legislature directs that the
15 minimum training standards be reviewed for licensees serving residents
16 with special needs, such as mental illness, dementia, or a
17 developmental disability, that licensees receive appropriate training,
18 and that the training delivery system be improved.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.20 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The department of health shall review, in coordination with the
4 department of social and health services, the nursing care quality
5 assurance commission, adult family home providers, boarding home
6 providers, in-home personal care providers, and long-term care
7 consumers and advocates, training standards for administrators and
8 resident caregiving staff. The departments and the commission shall
9 submit to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives
10 and the senate by December 1, 1998, specific recommendations on
11 training standards and the delivery system, including necessary
12 statutory changes and funding requirements. Any proposed enhancements
13 shall be consistent with this section, shall take into account and not
14 duplicate other training requirements applicable to boarding homes and
15 staff, and shall be developed with the input of boarding home and
16 resident representatives, health care professionals, and other vested
17 interest groups. Training standards and the delivery system shall be
18 relevant to the needs of residents served by the boarding home and
19 recipients of long-term in-home personal care services and shall be
20 sufficient to ensure that administrators and caregiving staff have the
21 skills and knowledge necessary to provide high quality, appropriate
22 care.

23 (2) The recommendations on training standards and the delivery
24 system developed under subsection (1) of this section shall be based on
25 a review and consideration of the following: Quality of care;
26 availability of training; affordability, including the training costs
27 incurred by the department of social and health services and private
28 providers; portability of existing training requirements; competency
29 testing; practical and clinical course work; methods of delivery of
30 training; and necessary enhancements for special needs populations and
31 resident rights training. Residents with special needs include, but
32 are not limited to, residents with a diagnosis of mental illness,
33 dementia, or developmental disability.

34 (3) The department of social and health services shall establish
35 payment rates to cover the reasonable costs of the enhanced minimum
36 training and specialized standards for facilities with a contract to
37 accept state-funded residents. The payment rates shall compensate
38 facilities on a pro rata basis, based upon the facility's ratio of
39 state-funded residents to private-pay residents. Compensation by the

1 department of social and health services shall include the reasonable
2 cost of tuition for the training and the reasonable cost for
3 administrators and caregiving staff while they attend required
4 training. To the extent possible, the department of social and health
5 services shall seek federal reimbursement for these training-related
6 costs. Facilities that admit only private-pay residents shall not have
7 training costs paid for by the state.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.128 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The department of health shall review, in coordination with the
11 department of social and health services, the nursing care quality
12 assurance commission, adult family home providers, boarding home
13 providers, in-home personal care providers, and long-term care
14 consumers and advocates, training standards for administrators and
15 resident caregiving staff. The departments and the commission shall
16 submit to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives
17 and the senate by December 1, 1998, specific recommendations on
18 training standards and the delivery system, including necessary
19 statutory changes and funding requirements. Any proposed enhancements
20 shall be consistent with this section, shall take into account and not
21 duplicate other training requirements applicable to adult family homes
22 and staff, and shall be developed with the input of adult family home
23 and resident representatives, health care professionals, and other
24 vested interest groups. Training standards and the delivery system
25 shall be relevant to the needs of residents served by the adult family
26 home and recipients of long-term in-home personal care services and
27 shall be sufficient to ensure that administrators and caregiving staff
28 have the skills and knowledge necessary to provide high quality,
29 appropriate care.

30 (2) The recommendations on training standards and the delivery
31 system developed under subsection (1) of this section shall be based on
32 a review and consideration of the following: Quality of care;
33 availability of training; affordability, including the training costs
34 incurred by the department of social and health services and private
35 providers; portability of existing training requirements; and necessary
36 enhancements for special needs populations and resident rights
37 training. Residents with special needs include, but are not limited

1 to, residents with a diagnosis of mental illness, dementia, or
2 developmental disability.

3 (3) The department of social and health services shall establish
4 payment rates to cover the reasonable costs of the enhanced minimum
5 training and specialized standards for facilities with a contract to
6 accept state-funded residents. The payment rates shall compensate
7 facilities on a pro rata basis, based upon the facility's ratio of
8 state-funded residents to private-pay residents. Compensation by the
9 department of social and health services shall include the reasonable
10 cost of tuition for the training and the reasonable cost for
11 administrators and caregiving staff while they attend required
12 training. To the extent possible, the department of social and health
13 services shall seek federal reimbursement for these training-related
14 costs. Facilities that admit only private-pay residents shall not have
15 training costs paid for by the state.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.129.030 and 1997 c 386 s 31 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The facility must inform the resident both orally and in
19 writing in a language that the resident understands of his or her
20 rights and all rules and regulations governing resident conduct and
21 responsibilities during the stay in the facility. The notification
22 must be made prior to or upon admission. Receipt of the information
23 must be acknowledged in writing.

24 (2) The resident or his or her legal representative has the right:

25 (a) Upon an oral or written request, to access all records
26 pertaining to himself or herself including clinical records within
27 twenty-four hours; and

28 (b) After receipt of his or her records for inspection, to purchase
29 at a cost not to exceed the community standard photocopies of the
30 records or portions of them upon request and two working days' advance
31 notice to the facility.

32 (3) The facility shall only admit or retain individuals whose needs
33 it can safely and appropriately serve in the facility with appropriate
34 available staff and through the provision of reasonable accommodations
35 required by state or federal law. Except in cases of genuine
36 emergency, the facility shall not admit an individual before obtaining
37 a thorough assessment of the resident's needs and preferences. The
38 assessment shall contain, unless unavailable despite the best efforts

1 of the facility, the resident applicant, and other interested parties,
2 the following minimum information: Recent medical history; necessary
3 and contraindicated medications; a licensed medical or other health
4 professional's diagnosis, unless the individual objects for religious
5 reasons; significant known behaviors or symptoms that may cause concern
6 or require special care; mental illness, except where protected by
7 confidentiality laws; level of personal care needs; activities and
8 service preferences; and preferences regarding other issues important
9 to the resident applicant, such as food and daily routine.

10 (4) The facility must inform each resident in writing in a language
11 the resident or his or her representative understands before~~((, or at~~
12 ~~the time of))~~ admission, and at least once every twenty-four months
13 thereafter of: (a) Services, items, and activities customarily
14 available in the facility or arranged for by the facility as permitted
15 by the facility's license; (b) charges for those services, items, and
16 activities including charges for services, items, and activities not
17 covered by the facility's per diem rate or applicable public benefit
18 programs; and (c) the rules of facility operations required under RCW
19 70.129.140(2). Each resident and his or her representative must be
20 informed in writing in advance of changes in the availability or the
21 charges for services, items, or activities, or of changes in the
22 facility's rules. Except in emergencies, thirty days' advance notice
23 must be given prior to the change. However, for facilities licensed
24 for six or fewer residents, if there has been a substantial and
25 continuing change in the resident's condition necessitating
26 substantially greater or lesser services, items, or activities, then
27 the charges for those services, items, or activities may be changed
28 upon fourteen days' advance written notice.

29 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The facility must furnish a written description of
30 residents rights that includes:

31 (a) A description of the manner of protecting personal funds, under
32 RCW 70.129.040;

33 (b) A posting of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the
34 state survey and certification agency, the state licensure office, the
35 state ombudsmen program, and the protection and advocacy systems; and

36 (c) A statement that the resident may file a complaint with the
37 appropriate state licensing agency concerning alleged resident abuse,
38 neglect, and misappropriation of resident property in the facility.

39 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Notification of changes.

1 (a) A facility must immediately consult with the resident's
2 physician, and if known, make reasonable efforts to notify the
3 resident's legal representative or an interested family member when
4 there is:

5 (i) An accident involving the resident which requires or has the
6 potential for requiring physician intervention;

7 (ii) A significant change in the resident's physical, mental, or
8 psychosocial status (i.e., a deterioration in health, mental, or
9 psychosocial status in either life-threatening conditions or clinical
10 complications).

11 (b) The facility must promptly notify the resident or the
12 resident's representative shall make reasonable efforts to notify an
13 interested family member, if known, when there is:

14 (i) A change in room or roommate assignment; or

15 (ii) A decision to transfer or discharge the resident from the
16 facility.

17 (c) The facility must record and update the address and phone
18 number of the resident's representative or interested family member,
19 upon receipt of notice from them.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The review under sections 2 and 3 of this
21 act shall include residential care staff training for programs and
22 services operated under Title 71A RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1,
24 1998.

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